

Amended Claims

1. A panel element having a utilization side (11), a counter draw (12) opposite the utilization side (11), a first side (13) having a tongue (2), a second side (14) which is located opposite the first side (13) and has a groove (3) with a contour opposite to that of the tongue (2), the tongue (2) having a connecting element (4) which extends substantially normal to the utilization side (11) and whose cross-section has a first flank (41) and a second flank (42) opposite the first flank (41), the cross-section of the connecting element (4) having a center line (44) normal to the utilization side (11) and - viewed in the direction of utilization side (11) - the inclination of the first flank (41) and the second flank (42) each points from the center line (44) outwards in a first section (45) of the connecting element (4) and in a second section (46) the inclination of the first flank (41) points from the center line (44) outwards and the inclination of the second flank (42) points to the center line (44), the distance normal to the center line (44) being reduced between the first flank (41) and second flank (42), characterized in that the first flank (41) is arranged on the side facing away from the panel element of connecting element (4).

2. The panel element according to claim 1, characterized in that the inclination of the first flank (41) and the inclination of the second flank (42) are substantially constant in the first section (45).

3. The panel element according to claim 2, characterized in that in the first section (45) the first flank (41) has an inclination smaller than that of the second flank (42).

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4. The panel element according to any one of claims 2 and 3, characterized in that the inclination of the first flank (41) is substantially constant in the second section (46) and commensurates with the inclination of the first flank (41) in the first section (45).
5. The panel element according to any one of claims 1 to 4, characterized in that the second flank (42) is rounded in the second section (46).
6. The panel element according to any one of claims 1 to 5, characterized in that groove (3) has a recess (5) with a contour opposite to that of the connecting element (4) and, when groove (3) is connected with tongue (2) of another, similar panel element, a first contact point (61) is formed on the first flank (41) of the connecting element (4) and a second contact point (62) is formed on the second flank (42) of the connecting element (4).
7. The panel element according to claim 6, characterized in that a glue channel (71) is formed in the region facing the counter draw (12) of recess (5).
8. The panel element according to any one of claims 1 to 7, characterized in that groove (3) has a glue channel (72), the glue channel (72) bordering on the face side (21) of tongue (2) of the other similar panel element when groove (3) is connected with tongue (2) of the other similar panel element.
9. The panel element according to any one of claims 6 to 8, characterized in that - when tongue (3) is connected with groove (2) of another similar panel element - a continuous gap (8) extending between tongue (2) of the other similar

panel element and groove (3) up to the second contact point (62) has been formed in the region of the face side (31) of groove (3).

10. The panel element according to any one of claims 1 to 9, characterized in that sides (13, 14, 15, 16) are at least partially treated, in particular sprayed, coated or the like, with a hydrophobic agent.